

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## LOCAL YOUTHS ORGANIZE NATIONAL DRUG FACTS WEEK ACTIVITIES TO EDUCATE OTHERS

FREDERICK, MD -- Young people with the Frederick County Health
Department's Adolescent Clubhouse will promote and participate in activities to
raise awareness about "National Drug Facts Week" (NDFW). The week-long
health observance, organized by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part
of the National Institutes of Health, takes place Monday, January 27th through
Sunday, February 2nd. NDFW celebrates the inquisitive minds of adolescents by
giving them a space, both virtual and physical, to learn the facts about drugs and
to dispel the countless myths about drugs by working with professionals in the
health field. As part of the NDFW celebration, teens from the "Clubhouse" will
promote the national event through social media, participate in an online chat with
scientists from NIDA, participate in an online drug facts quiz, promote drug-free
messages and activities, and offer parents an opportunity to view what has been
accomplished during this celebratory week.

According to NIDA, about a third of high school seniors across the country

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report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 21.7 % of Maryland high school seniors reported using prescription drugs without a doctor prescription in their lifetime, 5.7% reported using steroids without a doctor's prescription in their lifetime, and 4.6% reported ever using heroin in their lifetime. Past 30 day use of alcohol by Maryland seniors was reported at 47.3% and past 30 day use of cigarettes was reported at 17.8%. While drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, can put a teenager's health and life in jeopardy, many are not aware of the risks. Even for those teens who do not abuse drugs, many have friends or family who do, and they are often looking for ways to help them.

"Adolescents deserve to know the truth about alcohol, tobacco and drugs and this national week-long event offers us an opportunity, nationwide, to learn the facts from the experts", states Martin Brown, Deputy Director with the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Frederick County Health Department. "We are excited to have our youth participate in this event and are encouraged that others will learn the truth as a result of their participation", he continues.

The Frederick County Health Department's Adolescent Clubhouse invites residents in Frederick County to visit the center, to witness how the youth are making an effort to educate others about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and to support them in this effort.

For more information about "National Drug Facts Week", visit <a href="https://www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov">www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov</a>. For more information about the Adolescent Clubhouse and to learn what activities are planned, call 301-600-1132 or visit <a href="https://www.facebook.com/onthemarkclubhouse">www.facebook.com/onthemarkclubhouse</a>. For information about the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Frederick County Health Department or to find information about local prevention, treatment and recovery resources, visit <a href="https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/behavioralhealth">www.frederickcountymd.gov/behavioralhealth</a> or call 301-600-1755.

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